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Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations*

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   (b) Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31;
   (c) Consideration of issues in the agenda of the informal working group;
   (d) Other related matters.

* The document was submitted late to the conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report is submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

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7. Implementation of Council decision 2001/295.

8. Consideration of special reports.

9. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.

10. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2004 session of the Committee.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, each year, at the commencement of its first meeting, the Committee elects its Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons. In accordance with rule 19, Bureau members are eligible for re-election. One of the Vice-Chairpersons is later designated also to serve as Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Committee shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda for the current session was approved by the Council in its decision 2003/___.

In accordance with Council resolution 1996/31, paragraph 32 (a), and rule 84 of the rules of procedure of the Council, several non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council have requested to be heard by the Council in connection with items in the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2003 (E/2003/___).

Documentation

E/C.2/2003/CRP.4

3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

(a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous session of the Committee

The Committee will consider applications and requests for reclassification deferred from the sessions of previous years.

Documentation

Deferred applications for consultative status with the Council: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2003/CRP.1)

Deferred requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2003/CRP.3)

(b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

The Committee will consider new applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification from NGOs and act thereon.

Documentation

New applications for consultative status: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2003/R.2 and R.2/Add.1-5)

New requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2003/R.3)

4. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council

In accordance with the arrangements for consultation with NGOs in general and special consultative status with the Council that were approved by the Council in its resolution 1996/31, such organizations are required to submit, every fourth year, a report on their activities as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations.

The Committee will consider quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs on their activities during the periods 1994-1997, 1995-1998, 1996-1999, 1997-2000, 1998-2001 and 1999- 2002.

Documentation

Quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2003/2 and Add. 1-10 and E/C.2/2003/CRP.2)

5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat

In view of the expansion of the functions and responsibilities of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat to meet the demand of a growing number of applications for consultative status, as well as the demands of a larger and more active non-governmental organizations community, the Committee decided, at its 2002 substantive and resumed sessions, that the strengthening of the Section should continue to be a priority during its 2003 session and reaffirmed its strong support to the ongoing process of strengthening the Section, including the "paperless" Committee initiative.

Documentation

Oral presentation

6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

(a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations

The Committee will continue to consider the issue of the accreditation of representatives of NGOs and their participation in the work of the United Nations.

Documentation

Draft letter addressed to NGOs (E/C.2/2003/____)

(b) Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31

At its 2002 session, the Committee reviewed the issue of NGOs whose defining characteristics are not considered by the Committee to be in strict conformity with Council resolution 1996/31 and cleared the list. The Committee may wish to remove this sub-item from its agenda.

(c) Consideration of issues in the agenda of the informal working group

At its 2000 session, the Committee established an informal working group, open to all interested members of the Committee, to review its methods of work, including accreditation issues, procedures, coordination with the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights, enhancement of the non-governmental organizations information process and security issues. At its 2002 resumed session, the Committee reviewed a number of issues that have been placed on the agenda of the informal working group, and decided that the group continue its work. The Secretariat will report to the Committee on the subject.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the work of the informal working group (E/C.2/2003/___)

(d) Other related matters

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has been in consultative status with the Council since 1947. Since the General Assembly granted observer status to the organization in its resolution 57/32, the Committee may wish to recommend that the Council remove the organization from the list of NGOs in consultative status.

The Committee will examine the new guidelines for the submission of quadrennial reports for NGOs in general and special consultative status with the Council.

Documentation

New guidelines for quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2003/___)

7. Implementation of Council decision 2001/295

In its decision 2001/295, the Council, recalling its decision 1996/302, decided that the NGOs on the Roster of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see Council decision 1993/220) should apply for consultative status with the Council as would any other organization, as outlined in its resolution 1996/31. Those applications would be considered as expeditiously as possible under an agenda item of the Committee. The Committee will consider applications deferred from previous sessions.

Documentation

Implementation of Council decision 2001/295: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2003/CRP.5)

8. Consideration of special reports

Documentation

Special reports (E/C.2/2001/3/Add.2; E/C.2/2002/3 and 3/Add.2; E/C.2/2003/3 and 3/Add.1

9. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network

In its decision 2002/225, the Council established the general voluntary trust fund, and requested the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to identify and obtain the necessary financial, human and technical resources needed to carry out, in partnership with NGOs, Governments and other interested stakeholders, the development projects envisaged in the future framework of the United Nations Informal Regional Network (IRENE).

Documentation

Update note on the trust fund in support of IRENE and on the regional report (E/C.2/2003/___)

10. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2004 session of the Committee

In its resolution 1894 (LVII), the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit at each session of a subsidiary body of the Council a draft provisional agenda for its following session, together with information relating to documentation.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee

The Committee is required to report to the Council on its regular session.